

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 3-10, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11-12, and 36-38. Applicants have modified claim 11 in order to overcome the Examiners rejection under §112. Applicants submit that this change also obviates the Examiners rejection of claims 12, and 36-38 as well. Applicants have also modified claim 39 and 40 in order to overcome the rejections of claims 39-41. Applicants have also further modified claim 40 to further require that the polishing of the conductive film be at least in part due to the shear stress of the polishing fluid. Applicants note that this limitation is also found in claim 4, and accordingly, no new issues have been raised.

Applicants would like to point out that the current amendment to claim 6 was submitted in Amendment A mailed April 2, 2004, however, the claim lacked the proper indicator in that amendment. Applicants submit that claim 6 still stands in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that the prior art references relied upon by Examiner fail to teach or suggest Applicant's currently claimed invention. More specifically, the prior art fails to teach a polishing method such that a processing solution is applied in a substantially parallel direction to the surface to remove projecting portions of the applied film, said method further comprising the use of a chelating agent. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

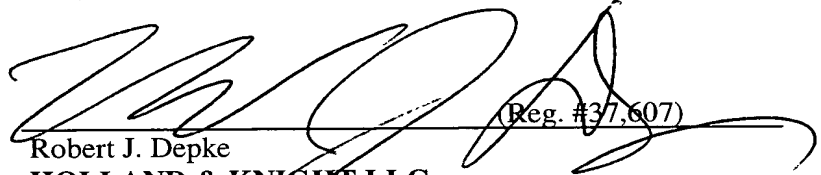
Appl. No. 09/963,966
Amdt. Dated September 15, 2004
Amendment Accompanying RCE

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicants request that the Examiner with the rejections and allow all claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

9/15/04

 (Reg. #37,607)

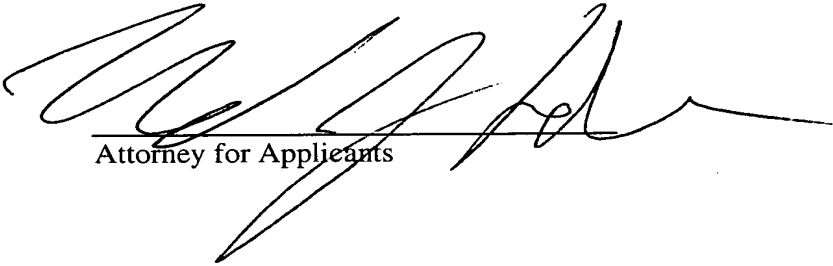
Robert J. Depke
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLC
131 S. Dearborn, 30th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Tel: (312) 263-3600
Attorney for Applicant

Appl. No. 09/963,966
Amdt. Dated September 15, 2004
Amendment Accompanying RCE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States
Postal Service as First Class Mail on 9/15/04 in an envelope addressed to:

**Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**



Attorney for Applicants